

A year later, this dismal prophecy appeared to have justified itself. A specific pledge had, for instance, been given by the Liberals that they would install model conditions of employment, etc., in Government Departments and contracts. Although this could have been accomplished by administrative action, nothing had been done.

A very considerable sensation was produced when in *The Fortnightly Review* for November 1893, there appeared an article over the signatures of Sidney Webb and Bernard Shaw, containing a stinging attack on broken Liberal promises. It bore the challenging title, "To Your Tents, O Israel!" and there was nothing ambiguous about either its positive proposals or its denunciation of Liberalism. The workers were specifically summoned to abandon, and adjured to form "a Trade Union political Party of their own." It was to be independent; it was to be based on the Unions, it was to start by raising enough money to run at least fifty independent Labour candidates.

In January 1894, this article was reprinted as a pamphlet, under the title, *A Plan of Campaign for Labour*. As such, it was widely read, and had no small influence.

The whole thing, to Liberals, was a piece of wanton sabotage of the Government. They were exceedingly angry. H. W. Massingham resigned from the Fabian Society, and attacked it and all its ways and works, in season and out of season, in the columns of the *Daily Chronicle*. The wrath of the Liberals was

partly due to
a deep and growing dissatisfaction with
themselves, their
party, their leaders, and their Government The
contrast
between the cheerful effectiveness of the
Progressives on
the Council and the factious futility of the
Rosebery admin-
istration of 1892-5 was painful By 1895 that
administration
was plainly breaking up, and breaking up
mainly from
its own internal weakness As Mr J A Spender
puts
it in his *Life of Sir William Harcourt*—